

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 166498

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR LANDAU

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJECT: PARAGUAY AND THE IAHR

REF: ASUNCION 2808, 2763 AND PREVIOUS

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1. WE CONSIDER THAT GOP HAS UNFULFILLED COMMITMENT TO US
WITH REGARD TO VISIT BY IAHR AND YOU SHOULD AGAIN
PROMPTLY REMIND GOP OF THAT FACT. BRAZILIAN PRESSURE ON
PARAGUAY NOT TO PERMIT AN INSPECTION VISIT BY THE IAHR IS
EASILY UNDERSTOOD AS A REALITY OF THE DILEMNA FACING THE
GOP. HOWEVER, FOR STROESSNER TO PERMIT THE URUGUAYAN
GOVERNMENT TO EXERCISE A VETO ON THE INSPECTION VISIT IS

VIEWS HERE AS A FURTHER STALLING TACTIC IF NOT IN EFFECT A SIGNAL THAT GOP COMMITMENT WILL NOT BE HONORED. FYI, THERE IS NOW AN OPINION HERE THAT THE THRUST OF THE GOP "COMMITMENT" TO PERMIT THE IAHRC VISIT WAS NOT ONLY TO AVOID PROBLEMS WITH THE EARLIER IDB LOANS BUT ALSO TO SIDESTEP THE LIMELIGHT AT THE OASGA IN GRENADA.

2. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE GOP DE FACTO REFUSAL TO PERMIT THE COMMISSION VISIT WILL BECOME WIDELY KNOWN VERY SOON. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE FOR FURTHER ACTION.

AS OUR NEXT STEP, WE ARE CONSIDERING A PROPOSAL TO DELAY SIGNING THE FY 77 FMS LOAN AGREEMENT UNTIL THE IAHRC PROBLEM IS SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. THERE IS A SHORT FUSE ON THIS, HOWEVER, AS THE FMS LOAN AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY SEPTEMBER 30 OR IT EXPIRES. THUS THE GOP WOULD BE ON NOTICE THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PREVIOUSLY OFFERED FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR WOULD BE THE SECOND TYPE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO BE WITHDRAWN, ASSUMING THE COMMISSION VISIT IS NOT APPROVED WITHIN THE NEXT 10 WEEKS. (THE FSO LOANS IN THE IDB WERE THE FIRST).

3. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT AN IDB TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROPOSAL (\$498,000 FSO FOR PREPARATION OF A PLAN FOR EXPANSION OF THE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM OF ASUNCION), SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IDB BOARD SHORTLY, HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE GOP.

4. IN A PHASED RESPONSE TO THE GOP DECISION NOT TO PERMIT THE COMMISSION VISIT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT BILATERAL AID ASSISTANCE BE CONTINUED AS IS FOR THE PRESENT. POLICY WILL BE DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A MULTI-COUNTRY REVIEW, WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE CONDUCTED ON UNIMPLEMENTED AID LOANS BY A HIGH LEVEL INTER-AGENCY GROUP.

5. YOUR COMMENTS AND EVALUATION OF POSSIBLE GOP REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL TO DELAY SIGNING THE FMS LOAN AGREEMENT IS REQUESTED SOONEST. VANCE

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